



A Complete Guide to International Removals to Australia

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Introduction

Australia has been rated by the American Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, as the best place to live and work for several years in a row.

Why is moving to Australia so popular? There are several reasons such as quality of life, an excellent standard of education and a very strong economy with a low rate of unemployment. Security is also a factor which looms large, especially for those people who are thinking of emigrating with children. Australia has a low crime rate compared with most countries in the world. Climate is also great with mild winters and warm to hot summers which leads to a great lifestyle that allows lots of outdoor activity all year round.

If you have decided to make the big move, there are other things that you need to think about such as applying for your visa and decide on options for shipping your household furniture and belongings.

Thanks to the internet, the opportunity to research and educate yourself about the moving process is unlimited and it can be a good starting point but be careful to look at reliable sources. This whitepaper gives you enough information and a few tips to start with for before, during and after moving to Australia.

BEFORE MOVING

Planning carefully for your move

If you are have decided to emigrate, then you have probably spent a lot of time thinking about all the paperwork that needs to be done, and the legal aspects of your move. The first few steps will be applying for your visa, finding a job and understanding the process of buying a house in Australia.

VISA

If you're one of the thousands of potential expats considering a life down under, don't be put off by the paperwork. Applying for a visa is a relatively straightforward process and the first step is to find out which visa you may be eligible for.

You can apply for a permanent Australian visa after you have lived for two years in a Specified Regional Area and worked, including being self-employed, for one year in

these same areas. Alternatively, it can be obtained through sponsorship under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

There are many different types of Australian visa, to find out which best suits your skills and needs, here is our guide to the most widely used visas to work, study and live in Australia.

Visitor Visas

Getting a visa for a short-term visit is a relatively simple process. Most British citizens and other EU residents can apply for an **eVisitor visa** for free online which entitles you to visit Australia for up to three months. For those who don't meet the requirements for the eVisitor visa, the standard **Visitor visa** is available to tourists from almost anywhere in the world, although there is a fee of between 135 and 350 Australian Dollars.

If you are aged between 18 and 30, you can travel and work in Australia for up to a year with a **Working Holiday visa**. This visa is available to all young people providing you hold a passport from a country eligible for the scheme (such as the UK) and do not plan on travelling with a dependent child.

Work and Skills Visas

Once you've experienced the Australian sunshine, laid back lifestyle and stunning seafront scenery, you may well be ready to make the move permanently. If you've decided to take the leap and live and work there long term, you will need to apply for the appropriate working visa. Depending on your skills and qualifications, there are several different types of Australian visa that allow you to work in the country.

There are various routes to working in Australia and several different visas, but the most common path for Brits wanting to move down under is the **Skilled Temporary Worker (457) visa**. This visa allows skilled workers to come and work for an approved Australian business, providing they meet a specific requirement that cannot be met by Australian citizens or permanent residents. It is valid for up to four years and you apply for it for inside or outside Australia. After two years, you can apply for permanent residency through the Employer Nomination Scheme.

The **Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS/RSMS)** is open to anyone who has been working in Australia with a 457 visa for over two years. Providing your employer is willing to nominate you and you are aged under 50 at the time of application, you are able to apply for permanent residency under the Temporary

Residence Transition stream. You must also meet the qualification and English language requirements.

If you want to make the move permanent right from the start, the **Skilled Independent visa** may be an option. Eligibility is worked out on a points based system with credit awarded to those with particular skills and qualifications especially those needed to fill jobs on the Skilled Occupation List.

If you do not meet the points requirement for the more general list, you may be able to seek permanent residency through the **Skilled Nominated visa**. This visa allows individuals to apply for nomination from particular state and territorial agencies based on the region's particular skill requirements. You must first provide an expression of interest outlining your particular skills and qualifications that could be of use to an Australian state or territory and specify which territories or states you may be interested in moving to. If you are successful and receive a nomination, you will then need to detail where you will live before and after arrival in the region. You may also be required to live and work in your nominating state for a specified amount of time. You can find lists of each territory and state's individual skills list on their websites to find out if you could qualify.

If you are not yet a permanent resident, but traveling on a Skilled Temporary Worker visa, you may also be able to bring your family with you. If your sponsor is willing to include your partner and children on your visa, they can live, work and study in Australia for the duration of the visa.

Study and Training Visas

If you wish to study at an Australian University, you first need to apply for a place at your chosen institution as an overseas student. Once you have gained a place and met the requirements to study for a bachelor degree, graduate certificate/diploma, master's degree by coursework or higher education diploma you can then apply for a **Higher Education Sector visa**. This allows you to live and study in Australia for the duration of your course.

You can also apply to study for a postgraduate course such as a master's degree by research or a doctoral degree. Again, you must first gain a place at your chosen institution then apply for a **Postgraduate Research visa** which will allow you to stay and study until you have completed the course. With both Higher Education and Postgraduate Research visas, you are permitted to work during designated holidays and up to 20 hours per week during term time if you need to support yourself financially while studying.

Australia Partner Visa

New Legislation has recently been introduced that will significantly change whether an Australian Partner visa application can be lodged whilst the applicant is in Australia, according to a report by Acacia Immigration Australia.

Part of the criteria for Partner permanent residence requires the visa applicant to be sponsored by an Australian permanent resident, Australian citizen or eligible New Zealand citizen. Together, the visa applicant and their partner submit their applications to the Department of Home Affairs.

Lodging a valid partner visa whilst in Australia allows the visa applicant to obtain a Bridging Visa A (BVA) which will take effect when their current visa expires. The BVA holder will then be able to remain in Australia until a decision is made on the partner application. During the processing time the BVA holder will be entitled to Medicare and have full work rights. The new Bill requires the partner to first lodge their sponsorship application and have it approved before their partner visa can be lodged.

Partner visa applicants with limited time remaining on their current visa will be required to either lodge a valid visa application that will allow them to stay in the country or depart Australia until the partner visa is granted. Until a valid visa application is lodged in Australia, the applicant will not be entitled to a BVA, Medicare or full work rights.

Dependent children can also join any Australian permanent resident or citizen. A **Child visa** permits any dependent offspring under 18 years old to come and live with their eligible parent on a permanent basis. Children adopted or in the process of being adopted by a citizen or permanent resident can also travel to Australia on an **Adoption visa**.

Finding a job in Australia and paying Taxes

In order to get a visa, it is crucial to find and secure a job in Australia. There are an abundance of opportunities in the country with high salaries for those that have qualifications and experience. Professionals in the medical, engineering and legal fields are particularly sought after. Therefore, it could be a great opportunity for those in the UK struggling to find work in competitive fields.

If you aren't sure about whether you should move there or not, you may be interested to hear about some of the highest paid jobs in the country – and if you are already trained in these jobs then this gives you a great advantage when it comes to taking your place in the country.

In general, you will not be able to gain access to Australia unless you are able to prove that you have work when you get there. For this reason, it is essential that you are able to secure a role – and if you are trained in one of the professions mentioned below then this is even better.

The medical profession	A huge proportion of the jobs that are on the ‘highest paid’ list are in the healthcare profession. Anaesthetists and surgeons top the list, with psychiatrists, dental practitioners and medical practitioners also in the top 10.
Engineering	Mining engineers and engineering managers make the list, which means that it is very much a sought-after profession in Australia.
The legal profession	If you have qualifications in law, then it is likely that you would be able to thrive in Australia. Judges are the highest paid in this profession, and they are near the top of the overall list when it comes to the highest paid in the entire country.

When it comes to paying Taxes, everyone who works in Australia, whether they are citizens, residents or on a working holiday visa, pays tax. Remember, that you not only pay tax on your Australian income, you will also be liable to pay tax on any income you receive worldwide. This could include your pension, rental income or interest on investments.

Taxes in Australia are levied at three levels – federal, state and local. The system is complex with each state having its own rules. The Tax Act has almost 4,000 pages, so it’s advisable to consult a tax expert to get to grips with system.

The first thing you need to do is apply for a Tax File Number (TFN). You can do this online before you arrive in Australia. Your TFN number will remain the same for the whole of your life, just like the UK’s National Insurance Number.

To find out more about Taxes, read John Mason’s blog about [paying Tax in Australia](#).

Finding a place to stay & buying a house in Australia

Moving to Australia means it's essential to find a long-term accommodation. A permanent address enables you to set up a bank account and will look better on your CV when applying for jobs. There are a number of options you can choose from including:

Long term hostel accommodation – find a hostel that caters for long term residency. This is a good choice for people that don't mind sharing toilet and kitchen facilities
Sharing a rented property – this is a popular choice for those looking for long-term accommodation without much commitment. It provides a stable yet affordable environment.
Travellers houses – this is for those who would prefer not to commit to a lease agreement. As the name suggests, the house is specifically for travellers and prices include utility bills.

Buying a house in Australia is an exciting prospect because there are so many wonderful locations to choose from including properties near the beach or exciting city life when moving to Sydney or Melbourne. There are many important factors to consider such as the legal process of buying a house in Australia and you can find out more by downloading the [Australian Buying Guide](#).

PACKING & THE MOVING PROCESS

Packing & preparing for a move to Australia

When you've decided to make the big move Down Under and your visas are in place or almost in place, it's then time to start thinking about shipping your household furniture and belongings.

It's recommended that you contact a removal company at least three months before your moving date to make sure that there is enough time to arrange a quotation, amend it if needed, complete the relevant paperwork and to thoroughly prepare all your items for shipping. Of course, removal companies should also be able to

accommodate you at a date nearer the time, but the more time allowed, the less stressful the process will be.

As with most industries, there are professional trade associations which can provide a directory of approved suppliers. For the UK, a key trade association is the British Association of Removers (BAR) and the sub-group, the BAR Overseas Group. BAR Overseas Group members also provide a financial guarantee for their service and are subject to regular annual inspections to make sure that quality standards are maintained.

FIDI is a well-known International Moving Association with over 500 members worldwide. The organisation requires that all members meet the quality standard of FIDI FAIM which involves through regular quality audits and financial health checks. Another worldwide moving organisation to look out for is Overseas Moving Network International (OMNI). Make sure to check out reviews of removal companies on their social media pages or on expat forums such as Pomsinoz.com, Britishexpats.com and Expatforum.com for customer experiences.

When you have your shortlist, it's time to start making enquiries. Unless you already have a strong idea about which companies you would consider, it is advisable to obtain at least three quotations for your move.

For a part or full house move, it is typical for a consultant to be sent to your property for a pre-move survey. Some removal companies however offer video / skype surveys if this is not possible. If you have a smaller size of shipment or just a few items to ship, a telephone or online quotation may be sufficient. The following table shows the different shipping options.

Deciding on Shipping Options

Sole Use Container (20ft, 40ft or 40ft High Cube)	The container will be exclusively yours and, in most cases, if access at your property is fine, you will see it sealed outside of your home. When the container arrives in Australia however it will not be delivered to your home in the same way due to the quarantine inspection process. As a rough guide, the contents of a three-bedroom house can usually fit inside a 20ft container.
Shared Container Service	Some moving companies offer a shared container service. This option is often more cost effective, particularly if you

	have a part-house or smaller shipment. This service means that you will share the container with one or more clients.
Air Freight	You may also wish to consider an air freight shipment if you require certain items to be with you straight away for example baby items or a tool kit needed for work. Make sure to first check your additional luggage allowance on your flight.

In addition, you might want to check if your removal company offers International Removals Insurance in case you prefer to arrange this with the same company. Make sure that all insurance options are clearly explained to you and stated on the quotation so that it is clear what is and isn't covered. Most removal companies will offer at least two options, All Risk Marine Insurance and Total Loss Only.

Further, in terms of preparing items for your move, The Australian Department of Agriculture have issued very strict guidelines with regards to what you can and can't bring into the country and how you should prepare your items. This is in order to protect the country from agricultural threats such as foot and mouth disease.

A full up to date list of what you can and can't take should be provided to you by your moving company. The general items to watch out for include:

Items made out of plant material	These are items such as wicker, pot pouri, bamboo and cane. Make sure also to check your Christmas decorations as pine cones and natural wreaths will not be welcomed. Untreated wood will be subject to inspection to look for evidence of woodborer activity. These items will be subject to a quarantine examination which may result in fumigation charges and possible delays to your shipment.
Food products	Certain items are strictly not allowed (e.g. dairy products). It is generally not recommended to ship food items if possible.
Alcohol	Alcohol is generally expensive to ship due to high customs duty and taxes in Australia. If you do plan to take alcohol, your moving company will normally ask you for details of the alcohol you are taking for customs purposes.

Anything corrosive and flammable	The general rule is no liquids or gases (e.g. aerosols, gas bottles, cooking oils, paints etc).
Anything associated with soil or dirt	Outdoor items in particular, should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before shipping. This includes items such as garden equipment, outdoor furniture, camping equipment, golf clubs, children's outdoor play equipment, bikes and shoes.

AFTER MOVING

Healthcare and health visa requirements

The granting of a visa for permanent residence, provisional visas and some temporary residence visas in Australia, are subject to each applicant meeting a certain minimum health requirement. The exact health requirements vary from visa to visa, although will usually include a chest X-ray, an HIV/Aids test and a general medical. The table below shows who is and who not eligible for Medicare.

Who's Eligible for Medicare?	Who Isn't Eligible for Medicare?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All citizens • All permanent residents • Visitors to Australia who can gain access via Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RHCA), such as citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Slovenia, Italy and Malta. • People who have a valid visa and their parent, child or spouse is either a permanent resident or a citizen of Australia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign diplomats and their families • Men over 55 and women over 51 who have been sponsored in the family migratory category, are the responsibility of their sponsors for ten years or until they reach retirement age. • Retired people on temporary residence visas are not covered. Certain retirees on a permanent residence visa are eligible. Check the government website, rules and regulations for healthcare and immigration are always changing.

Medicare is the equivalent of the UK's National Health Service, Medicare, came into being in 1984. Medicare covers a substantial chunk of possible medical bills, and the Australian government urge people to take out private health insurance to cover the inevitable shortfalls. The following table shows what Medicare gives you and what it doesn't cover as well.

What Medicare Gives you	What Medicare Doesn't Cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% cost of treatment as a hospital inpatient • An 85% rebate on non-inpatient services, such as visits to a GP or a specialist. • Partial cover for medicines • Partial cover for diagnostic tests done by a GP • Partial cover for specialists and consultants • Eye tests performed by optometrists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental exams and treatment, although some dental surgery is covered • Ambulance services • Chiropody • Home nursing • Occupational therapy • Physiotherapy • Glasses and contact lenses • Hearing aids • Prostheses • Private hospital cover • Medical repatriation and funeral costs

Enrol in Medicare as soon as you arrived in Australia, although you can enrol retrospectively and get refunds on medical care already received. You can either go to a Medicare office personally or have a form sent to you. You will need to provide proof of your eligibility and details of your income, assets and residence. Your Medicare card should arrive within 2 to 3 weeks and it's valid for 5 years.

Private Health Care

There's a range of private health care options and many Australians pay for private health care. It gives you the freedom to choose your doctor, specialist and hospital and also allows you to be hospitalised in your own room, with ensuite bathroom and TV etc.

John Mason International has teamed up with Bupa International

John Mason International have teamed up with Bupa International, the largest privately-owned health insurance provider in Australia, to provide tailored overseas visitors cover to suit your health and wellness needs.

Bupa have cover options that specifically meet the minimum level of health insurance required as set out by the Australian Government, Immigration and Border Control on selected Visas.

They offer a wide range of products specifically designed to meet your needs no matter what your circumstances may be; whether you are an Australian citizen returning home after spending time overseas or a visitor coming to Australia to work, study or retire Bupa have a plan that's right for you.

How to settle in

Now that you have successfully moved to Australia, there are also other things to consider – which will ultimately have a huge effect on just how successful your emigration experience is. The following points give you a few tips on how to settle in.

Get to know your new home

Where are the best spots for a Sunday morning walk? You need to know all of the little things, and for this reason doing lots of research and get to know as much as you can about where you live is definitely something that you need to do - use tourist websites, local guides and even neighbourhood social networking groups to see what is available in the place where you live.

Help your child to settle in

Sometimes, when you make such a huge move, children and their feelings can get side-lined, because everybody is so busy trying to make sure that everything works in the best way for them. For this reason, you should make the children a priority, and ensure that they have settled in as soon as possible. This could include things like decorating their bedroom first or starting new traditions – like doing the same thing every Saturday morning. The sooner they are settled, the sooner they will be able to thrive.

Get to know new people

When you arrive in a new place, it may be tempting to throw every bit of energy into unpacking – and it can also be common for you to spend a lot of time talking to the people who stayed at home. However, you should try to avoid doing this if you can, and make sure that you try to meet new people right from the start. These are the

people who are likely to be your friends in your new life, and they will be able to provide an excellent support network whenever you need them. With this being the case, it is great to join groups or go to clubs, as you will be able to meet people with whom you have things in common.

*All information is correct at the time of publish, and John Mason International will not be held responsible for changes in circumstances after the time of publication.